

XV.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

Baker on Indian Game Birds.

[The Game Birds of India, Burma, and Ceylon. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Part xx.: with a coloured Plate. Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. 1916, pp. 623-638.]

In this instalment of Mr. Baker's review of the Indian Game-birds the genus *Crossoptilon*, containing the Eared Pheasants of the higher Himalayas and Tibet, are considered, and some very useful and valuable remarks on the classification and taxonomy of this interesting group is given.

Mr. Baker recognises three species, two of which are divided into two subspecies, making five forms in all; they are separated partly on their general colour and partly on the number of tail-feathers, which varies from twenty to twenty-four. Seebold's *C. leucurum*, obtained near the Sokpo Pass in Tibet, is considered identical with *C. drouynii* collected by Père David at Moupin, and this latter is placed as a subspecies of *C. tibetanum*, the type-form occupying a western and north-western habitat as compared with *C. t. drouynii*. The darker grey *C. auritum* and *C. harmani* are considered to constitute a second pair, the former in western China, the latter in the Abor and Mishmi hills. The third species, *C. mantchuricum*, appears to be confined to Manchuria and north-eastern China. A beautiful coloured plate by Grönvold of *C. harmani* enhances the value of this interesting paper.

Despott on Maltese Breeding Birds.

[The Breeding Birds of Malta. By Giuseppe Despott. Zoologist, 1916, pp. 161-181.]

Mr. Despott, the Curator of the Natural History Museum at Malta, has already sent us a new list of the birds of that island, which we noticed in 'The Ibis' for July of last year. He has also written a little account of the birds which breed in the island and of their nesting-habits; the number is

only thirty-two, and Mr. Despott is rather gloomy about the future of some of these even, so unrestricted has been the destruction of bird-life among the Maltese sportsmen !

Through the efforts of Mr. Despott a new set of regulations for preventing the destruction of birds has recently been drawn up and promulgated, which if made effective would certainly have helped to preserve and increase the number of birds in Malta. Unfortunately, after a somewhat acrimonious debate in the Government Council on the subject, the promulgation of the regulations appears to have been postponed for six months owing to the objections raised by the unofficial members of the Council, while the Licut. Governor and the Crown Advocate spoke very strongly in favour of the regulations. It is to be hoped that some means may be found to settle the question favourably to the bird-life of Malta, and that Mr. Despott and his friends will eventually succeed in their efforts.

We have to thank Mr. Despott for a copy of the proposed regulations and for an account of the debate in the Council taken from the Daily Malta Chronicle.

Mathews on the Birds of Australia.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. vi. pts. 1, 2, pp. 1-104, 105-216, pls. 267-282, 283-290. London (Witherby), Febr. 1917. 4to.]

The first pages of the present instalment of this work are devoted to a thorough, and to our mind most interesting, discussion of the classification and nomenclature of the Psittaciformes, or Parrot-alliance, which is supplemented under the several genera and especially *Kakatoe*. Mr. Mathews takes us back to the times of the early voyages in the Pacific, Dampier, Cook, and others ; and follows with a consideration of the writings of Banks, Shaw, Latham, Temminck, Kuhl, Vigors, and Horsfield, which lead up to those of later authorities on Parrots, such as Finsch and Salvadori. He finds the Watling drawings of comparatively little assistance.

Linnaeus placed all forms under the single genus *Psittacus*, but this was soon subdivided ; G. R. Gray, for instance,

admitted five Subfamilies under the head of one Family, while Bonaparte raised the group to the position of an Order, under which he classed the Families *Psittacidae* (with seven Subfamilies) and *Strigopidae* (with two).

Mr. Mathews reprints Count Salvadori's arrangement for comparison with his own, which is as follows, as far as Australia is concerned:—*Trichoglossidae*, *Opopsittidae* (sole genus *Opopsitta*), *Proboscigeridae* (sole genus *Probosciger* for *Microglossus aterrimus*), *Kakatoeidae* (Subfamilies *Calyptorhynchinae* and *Kakatoeinae*), *Leptotophidae*, *Loriidae*, *Polytelitidae*, *Platycercidae*, and *Pezoporidae*. He relies on both structural and superficial characteristics for his decisions, and creates new Families, *Leptolophidae*, *Proboscigeridae*, and *Polytelitidae*, while the "ancient forms" *Pezoporus* and *Geopsittacus* are removed from the *Platycercidae* and placed with *Melopsittacus* in a Family *Pezoporidae*.

The following points also call for notice: *Calyptorhynchus* is cited as of Desmarest, *Trichoglossus* as of Stephens. Under the latter *T. moluccanus* supersedes *T. novæ-hollandiæ* and *septentrionalis* stands as a subspecies with *colesi*, and *eyrei* as "secondary subspecies," which we take to mean "hardly recognisable." Of *T. rubritorquis* the subspecies *melvillensis* is dropped.

The author's *Eutelipsitta* is retained for the species *chlorolepidota*, with the subspecies *neglecta*, *minor* being quashed. Similarly, under his *Psitteuteles versicolor*, *mellori* and *whitei* are expunged. *Glossopsitta* has three species, *concinna*, *pusilla*, and *porphyrocephala*, the only subspecies preserved being *whitlocki* under the last. A new subgenus, *Parripsitta*, is proposed for the second and third species. *Opopsitta* is upheld, as against *Cyclopsitta* of Reichenbach, with woodcuts to show the mistakes of the author; the subspecies *boweri* is dropped under *C. leadbeateri*, as is the subgenus *Manopsitta*. New genera, *Nannopsittacus* and *Cruopsitta*, are also proposed in the *Cyclopsittacine* group, on account of the square tail and feathered cere respectively.

Next we have a thoroughly elaborated account of the

Black Cockatoos, with the six subspecies of *Probosciger aterrimus*, one of which (*oorti*) is new. Woodcuts of bills are given to justify the separation of *Zanda* and *Harrisornis* from *Calyptorhynchus*. The confused synonymy of *C. banksii* is debated, and mistakes due to confounding the males, females, and immature explained. Of five subspecies recognised, *samueli* is new. Under *Harrisornis*, *lathamii* is preferred to *viridis* of Vieillot, and the subspecies *kalman-turinus* is dropped. Similarly, *teuuirostris* is given up under *Zanda bandinii*; but *xanthonotus* and *whitei* are retained under the species *funerea*, which is now definitely assigned to *Zanda*.

A new genus, *Callocorydon*, takes the place of *Callocephalon* for the Gangang, which stands as *finbriatus* (Gm.), with a new subspecies *superior*, *tasmanicus* being, moreover, rejected.

We now reach the White Cockatoo, of which the distribution is discussed at length, and seven subspecies allowed, *interjecta* being new. The extra-limital forms are also brought under consideration, and from four to six subspecies sustained, including a new one, *aruensis*.

As side issues Mr. Mathews cites and rejects names given by Bourgeot St. Hilaire, while he proposes *Eucucutua* for *Kakator*, if the latter is not approved.

Finally, he retains *Lophochroa* Bp. for the species *lead-beateri*, and *Ducorpsius* Bp. for *sanguineus*; to the former he allots four subspecies, *superflua* being new, to the latter five, *westralensis* and *normantoni* being also additional.

Peters on a new Swift.

[A new Swift from Santo Domingo. By James Lee Peters. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, vi. 1916, pp. 37-38.]

Mr. Peters describes *Streptoprocne zonarius melanotus* subsp. nov., allied to but distinct from the Cuban and Jamaican forms. It was collected by the describer himself in Santo Domingo, and is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Mass.

Riley on new Neotropical Birds.

[Three remarkable new species of birds from Santo Domingo. By J. H. Riley. Smithsonian Misc. Coll. vol. 66. no. 15, 1916, pp. 1-2.

Two new Galliformes from Tropical America. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. xxix. 1916, pp. 103-104.]

Dr. W. L. Abbott, the well-known traveller, who has done so much collecting in the Malayan region, has recently been able to reach the highlands of Santo Domingo, which forms the eastern half of that hardly yet explored island of Hayti.

He has sent, among others, three interesting new forms to the U.S. National Museum:—*Asio noctipetens*, allied to *A. stygius*, the Antillean Long-eared Owl; *Loxia megalapa*, a resident form of the White-winged Crossbill; and *Brachyospiza antillarum*, a form of Song-Sparrow related to the one found in Costa Rica. No representative of the two last-named genera has previously been obtained in the Antilles.

In the second paper, *Fulica americana grenadensis* from Grenada, West Indies, and *Creciscus murivagans* from Lima in Peru, are described as a new subspecies and species respectively.

Thorburn's British Birds.

[British Birds, written and illustrated by H. Thorburn, F.Z.S., with eighty plates in colour showing over four hundred species. In four volumes. Vol. iv. pp. viii+107. London (Longmans), 1916. 4to. Price £6 6s. 0d. net for the four vols.]

Mr. Thorburn has now completed his task and his last volume is before us. It contains the shore-birds and the sea-birds, and certainly maintains the high standard set in the previous volumes. Perhaps of all the plates the frontispiece illustrating the Terns is the one which gives us most pleasure; but in this case the birds themselves are among the most graceful and delicately-coloured of all the whole class and lend themselves to form a beautiful picture.

If we may criticize, it appears to us that the difference in the length of the tails of the Common and Arctic Terns is unduly emphasized, as well as the difference in colour of the

underparts, but this is a minor matter. The only other picture we would like to mention in a critical manner is that of the Pratincole on plate 62. In this case the rufous of the under wing-coverts appears to be too conspicuous and extensive, but doubtless there is a certain amount of individual variation in this character.

On the whole, we have nothing but praise for an admirable series of portraits of our native birds, beautifully reproduced and sold at a price never previously possible for so fine a work.

The account of each species given in the letterpress is short but to the point, and often contains an interesting remark or an account of an observation made by Mr. Thorburn himself, who has had many opportunities of watching birds in various portions of the British Islands.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Thorburn on the completion of his splendid work, and strongly recommend it to the notice of all lovers of British birds.

Whistler on Punjab Birds.

[A Note on some Birds of the Gujranwala District, Punjab. By Hugh Whistler. Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. 1916, pp. 689-710.]

The district of Gujranwala, in which Mr. Whistler was stationed during the greater part of 1915, borders on that of Lahore; it is in the north-west portion of the Punjab and not far from the Himalayas. A long list of the birds observed is given, and in many cases notes on nidification and migration are added.

Bird Notes.

[Bird Notes. The Journal of the Foreign Bird Club. Edited by Wesley T. Page. Vol. vii.; 12 nos. for 1916. Ashbourne (Avian Press).]

The volume of 'Bird Notes' for last year contains the usual number of pages and seems not to have suffered at all in spite of the difficult times we are passing through. There are a large number of articles of strictly avicultural interest in regard to the construction and planning of

aviaries, the breeding of rare species, and other matters of special interest to aviculturists and others which we fear we hardly have space to comment on, but we should like to draw the attention of our readers to one or two of the more generally interesting contributions.

Mr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., has prepared an exhaustive history of the Budgerigar from the time of Latham, who first brought the bird to notice. It is stated to have been introduced as a cage-bird into this country by John Gould about 1840, while its later history, and especially the first appearance of the blue variety in England in 1910, is of great interest.

Major Perrean continues his notes on the birds to be seen about Bakloh in the Punjab and also about those he has in his aviaries at the same place. Mr. F. Dawson Smith writes on the birds he noticed when on a visit to Achill Island on the west coast of Ireland last year, and Mr. Shore Baily has an article, among many, on the Grebes of England and California, and he tells us that the "Grebe fur" so often worn by ladies is prepared from the skins of *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, a Californian species which is found in countless numbers in the swamps of that State.

Mr. Wesley Page contributes an interesting article on the "Endurance of Birds" as tested by his experiences in outdoor bird-keeping. He gives a long list of the species he has had in his aviaries, showing those which are, and those which are not hardy to our winter.

The only coloured plate is one illustrating the Purple Malachite and Black-breasted Sunbirds, drawn and coloured from examples exhibited at the Holborn bird-show in February last year. Some notes to accompany the plate are sent by the Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke, who owned and showed the birds.

From 'Timchri,' the organ of the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana, there is reprinted an article on "Some Colony Birds" dealing with many of the commoner birds of Demarara; this contains very useful accounts of

the habits of a number of species not often written about. The author is the Rev. Charles R. Dawson, S.J.

The Condor.

[The Condor. A Magazine of western Ornithology. Vol. xviii. Nos. 1-6, 1916. Cooper Ornithological Club. Hollywood, Cal., U.S.A.]

As is usually the case, most of the articles in the last completed volume of the 'Condor' deal with the birds of California or the neighbouring western States of the Union. In fact, the only paper on what may be termed exotic ornithology is one by Dr. T. W. Richards, of the U.S. Navy, on birds nesting at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in which he gives a more particular account of the nest of the Grasquit, *Tiaris canora*, a species which finds a place in the A. O. U. List by virtue of its accidental occurrence on Sombrero Key off the southern extremity of Florida.

Among faunal papers Mr. S. G. Jewett contributes an account of some new and rare records from Oregon, and notes on some birds of Tillamook county in the same State; Mr. R. H. Palmer sends a description of the bird rookeries in some of the islands of Great Salt Lake in Utah, where the California and Ring-billed Gulls, White Pelicans, and Blue Herons nest in countless numbers; Mr. N. de W. Betts writes on the birds of Montana, Mr. Pierce on those of the San Bernardino Mountains of California, and Mr. A. B. Howell on those of Arizona during the winter months.

Mrs. Miriam Bailey continues her very readable series of sketches of bird-life in the western States, dealing successively with the sloughs and marshes of Dakota, the lakes of Dakota, the sea-beaches near Los Angeles in California, and the prairies of southern Texas along the Mexican border.

Articles on single species, generally illustrated with photographs of nests and eggs, are those by Mr. Huey on *Creciscus coturniculus*, the Farallon Rail, in southern California, by Mr. Skinner on the Nutcracker of Yellow-

stone Park, by Mr. Newberry on the Wren-Tit (*Chamaea fasciata*), and by Mr. Willard on the disappearing Banded Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) in Arizona.

The editor of the 'Auk,' Mr. Witmer Stone, prints a charming address read at the meeting of the A. O. U. at San Francisco in 1915. He traces the history of Californian and western ornithology from the time of Capt. Cook, who obtained several birds at Nootka Sound, Vancouver I., until 1850, when the great immigration into western America took place and the country became more or less settled.

Mr. W. L. Dawson, who is to be the Director, outlines his plans for the erection of a new Museum of Comparative Oology which has recently been founded at Santa Barbara. A State Charter has been procured, Boards of Trustees and Visitors appointed, and a site obtained, but actual building will not be commenced for three years. The Museum is eventually to comprise a group of twenty-two buildings! Mr. Dawson writes very sensibly on some of the problems of ornithology and oology, on which he hopes some light may be shed by the acquisition of a really cosmopolitan collection.

Irish Naturalist.

[The Irish Naturalist. A monthly Journal. Vol. xxv.; for 1916 12 numbers.]

The 'Irish Naturalist' for last year contains several articles on the Crossbill. Mr. C. B. Moffat, whose experiences are chiefly in Co. Dublin and Co. Wexford, has found them breeding regularly since 1909, when a large incursion occurred, and he noticed that they were particularly abundant in 1915. He has also observed that the Crossbills now in this part of Ireland appeared to prefer the cones of the Larch and Scotch Fir and never touch those of the Spruce. It is said that on the Continent the Spruce seeds form the greater part of their diet. Mr. Moffat's observations are confirmed by Mr. C. J. Carroll, who sends a history of the Crossbill in Tipperary, where he has found it nesting every year since 1910. The nest is almost invariably placed in a

Scotch Fir, but there was much variation in the lining of the nests, which were formed of either fine roots, feathers, moss, or even lichen. Mr. Carroll also states that the birds he observed fed almost exclusively on the seeds of the Scotch Fir and never on those of the Spruce.

Another article by the same author, Mr. Carroll, deals with the growing scarcity of the Raven in Cos. Waterford and Tipperary. They used to be quite common in these counties, but they have been destroyed by the poison laid in the wilder parts for the destruction of foxes. Now only some half-dozen pairs are found along the sea-cliffs and in the precipices of the mountains in Waterford, while in Tipperary they are probably extinct.

Another Irish bird now probably extinct is the Golden Eagle. What was probably the last individual left in Ireland, a female, is stated by Mr. W. J. Williams to have been killed in Co. Mayo in October 1915.

Some careful observations on the habits of the Nightjar in the Enniskillen bogs are contributed by Mr. J. P. Burkitt, and Prof. C. J. Patten sends some notices of the occurrence of rare birds at the lighthouse on the Tuskar rock off the Wexford coast, including the second Irish record of the Tree-Pipit and the first of the Black-eared Wheatear.

Irish ornithology has recently suffered a great loss in the death of Mr. Robert Warren on 26 November, 1915, and we regret that no previous mention of this has been made in the pages of 'The Ibis.' A full biographical notice with a portrait and a list of his writings is contributed to the March number of the 'Irish Naturalist' by Mr. C. B. Moffat. Born in 1829 he was a correspondent of Prof. William Thompson of Cork, and assisted him in the preparation of his work on Irish birds. Later on he was associated with Messrs. Barrington, Ussher and Moore in the preparation of the more recently published 'Birds of Ireland.' He added the White Wagtail and the Pied Flycatcher to the Irish list and made many other observations and discoveries in Irish ornithology, and the list of his writings dates from 1857 to 1914.

Messenger Ornithologique.

[*Messenger Ornithologique.* Septième année, 1916. 4 nos., pp. 1-264. Moscow.]

The four numbers of the Russian 'Messenger Ornithologique' for last year have reached us regularly and contain a number of papers almost entirely restricted to the study of the birds of the Russian Empire. Unfortunately, except in the case of a few authors who provide resuméés in English or German, the language used is Russian, and we can only indicate the titles of most of the papers.

Of faunal papers the editor, Mr. Poliakov, completes his account of the birds of the upper Irtysh valley. It has been running through several volumes and is separately paged, and will no doubt be issued as a separate volume later on. Mr. E. I. Ispolatoff writes on the birds of the Government Olouetz, Prince Alexander Koudashev on those of the Black Sea Government and Mr. A. M. Kaminsky on those of the Moscow Government. Mr. Ingarinow has two articles on the birds of north-western Mongolia with a short German summary, and Mr. Buturlin sends a seventh contribution on the birds of Ussuri and the Coast Province between the Amur river and the Japanese sea. He reviews the subspecies of the Hazel Hen (*Tetrastes bonasia*), of which he recognises seven forms. Four of these are described for the first time: *T. b. kolymensis*, *T. b. amurensis*, *T. b. volgensis*, and *T. b. ussuriensis*.

Among other taxonomic papers Mr. N. A. Zarudny reviews the Swallows of Turkestan and describes as new, *Riparia riparia plumipes*. The Siberian Jay (*Perisoreus infaustus*) also comes in for drastic subdivision at the hands of Mr. Buturlin, who recognises six races, two of which are new—*P. i. sakhalinensis* from Saghalien and *P. i. ruthenus* from Russia and western Siberia. *P. i. sibiricus* is renamed *P. i. yakutensis*, while the type form is confined to northern Scandinavia. Prince A. Koudashev reviews the Russian Hawfinches and recognises four races of the typical species as well as two

distinct species, *Coccothraustes japonicus* from Japan and *C. humii* from Turkestan and India. The new form is *C. c. tatjanae*.

Field-notes with two photographs of nests of *Acrocephalus palustris* are contributed by Mr. Shtoebr, and Mr. V. E. Ushakow sends an account of the nest and eggs of *Numenius tenuirostris* with a figure, and Mr. Poliakov has a photograph of the nest of the Black-throated Diver on a lake in the neighbourhood of Moscow.

An article on the migration of the White Stork in spring is given by Mr. A. A. Browner and one on ringing nestling birds in south Finland by Mr. H. Grote, while an interesting note is sent by Mr. H. Johansen of the capture in Norway in October of a young Redwing ringed in the nest in the previous May near Tomsk in Siberia.

Revue Française d'Ornithologie.

[Revue Française d'Ornithologie, scientifique et pratique. 8^e Année, Nos. 81-92. Paris, 1916.]

Last year's volume of the French Ornithological Journal continues to uphold the position it has made for itself, and contains a number of articles appealing to the amateur as well as to the professional bird-lover.

M. Brasil concludes his notes on the birds of New Caledonia and Lifou in which he gives some interesting taxonomic and other information, and M. J. Lorauchet continues his account of the birds of Kerguelen, which are illustrated with some of his own photographs. He spent some eight months on the island and had ample opportunities of making observations on the birds he writes about.

Another article on an exotic fauna is that of Drs. Bonet and Millet-Horsin on the birds of the Ivory coast or Dahomey; observations were made both in the savanna regions of the interior and also in the forested country along the coast, and a list of 144 species is recorded.

Among the more important contributions on the French avifauna are those of M. J. L'Hermitte on the birds of

Provence and of M. E. Coursimault on the birds found round about Vendôme. This writer pays special attention to the songs and notes of the various species and in many cases reduces them to musical notation.

M. Brasil is able to record the capture of *Larus glaucus* and *Dryobates medius*, both in the Department of Calvados. The first of these was a female in quite adult livery, a plumage in which these birds are seldom taken on the French coast; the second is probably a new record for Calvados.

A special supplement to the February number is devoted to an article by Dr. R. Didier on the Tufted Puffin on the North Pacific (*Lunda cirrhata*). It is illustrated by a lithographic plate.

M. A. Hughes writes on the habits of *Cisticola cisticola* in southern France. He believes that it is undoubtedly a resident and does not migrate to any extent. This is borne out by the habits of the other members of the genus found chiefly in Africa.

An interesting note by M. Reboussin comments on the numbers of birds to be seen and heard in the country to the north of Verdun, notwithstanding the constant artillery duels going on day and night. Similar statements have been made by some of our English observers serving in the trenches in other parts of the line.

The Scottish Naturalist,

[The Scottish Naturalist. A Monthly Magazine devoted to Zoology, Jan.-Dec. 1916.]

Among ornithological contributors to the 1916 volume of the 'Scottish Naturalist,' Miss Baxter and Miss Rintoul take a prominent place with several articles of special interest. Their first paper deals with the moulting of northern breeding birds in their winter quarters. This is found to be very extensive in many species such as the Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*), two males of which, taken in February on the Andaman Islands, were in full moult, not only as regards the body-feathers but also the wing-

and tail-feathers, though it has been stated that the spring moult of the Pipits extends to the small feathers only. This is the case with many other birds, especially among the Waders, many of which were found to be moulting in November or earlier, soon after their arrival in southern latitudes. Dr. Claude Ticchurst also writes on the same subject in reference to a previous paper by Miss Baxter and Miss Rintoul, confirming and adding to their observations on the migration of birds from Great Britain in moult.

Another contribution by the same two ladies gives us a list of the continental racial forms of various British birds which migrate through, or winter in, our islands; they mention some of the more distinctive characters of these races and give instances of their occurrence. We notice that they continue to insist on the possibility of distinguishing the Continental and British races of the Gold-crest and Hedge-Sparrow, in contradistinction to the views put forward in the new B. O. U. List of British Birds.

The July-August number of the magazine is entirely devoted to the "Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1915," by the same two ladies, a most valuable summary of work done in Scotland. Though the writers were hampered by military restrictions and the absence of many observers, their report contains many items of interest such as the wintering of the continental race of the Great Tit in Scotland, but most of the new records have already been published elsewhere. Summaries are given of ringing results, plumage variation, habits and food, migration, including a summary of weather conditions and notes on movements arranged under species.

The Editor, Mr. Eagle Clarke, records the occurrence of the British Tree-Creeper in the island of Lewis, a place entirely unsuitable to its habits owing to the absence of trees. The bird was evidently blown over from the mainland by a severe storm. Another interesting record is that of the Continental Barn-Owl taken on Unst, Shetland. No Barn-Owl has previously been recorded from Shetland, and the continental form *Flammea flammea guttata* was not

previously known from Scotland, and is only a very rare visitor in England. From St. Kilda Mr. Clarke has received a Water-Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): it was doubtless a passage migrant.

Mr. Eagle Clarke also describes the plumage of a young female of the Pied Wheatear (*Ænanthe leucomela*) taken on the island of Swona in the Orkneys. The only British example previously known was one from the Isle of May in 1909.

Among shorter papers is one by Mr. W. Berry in which he draws attention to the recent extension of the range of the Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus scoticus*) into north-eastern Inverness-shire and eastern Ross-shire. Mr. R. Clyne writes on the movements of the Gannet at the Butt of Lewis to and fro from the gannetries at St. Kilda and Stack; while Mr. William Evans states that the authority for the occurrence of the Levantine Shearwater in Scottish waters is the late Mr. E. T. Booth, who obtained an example from the Firth of Forth in August 1874. This specimen is now in the Booth Museum at Brighton.

A good portrait and memoir of the late Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown is to be found in the September number.

Yearbook of the Barcelona Science Club.

[Junta de ciències naturals de Barcelona. Anuari 1916. Barcelona.]

This Annual is issued in connection with a new Museum recently founded at Barcelona. It had its origin in the private collection, chiefly in conchology and archæology, of Señor Martorell i Penya, who bequeathed not only the collections but also his house, furniture, and library to the city of Barcelona, as well as a considerable sum of money for upkeep.

The only contribution of ornithological interest in the Annual is a list of the collection of birds, which seems hardly worthy of so fine a Museum as this appears to be, judging from the photographs reproduced in the volume. There are, however, a number of contributions dealing with

other zoological matters which no doubt contain valuable additions to knowledge. The papers are all written in the Catalan dialect of Spanish and this renders them difficult to understand, especially if one has but a small knowledge of Spanish.

Yearbook of the Dutch Bird-Club.

[Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht, no. 6. Deventer (Kluwer), 1916.]

The chief contributor to this annual publication is the President of the Club, Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, who sends his usual report on events of ornithological importance which have taken place in Holland between the dates October 1915 and September 1916. A bird new to the Dutch avifauna, *Puffinus gravis*, was found dead on the coast at Noordwijk, and Baron Snouckaert comments on the enormous number of Wood-Pigeons which wintered in Holland in 1915-16, due partly, he believes, to the abundant supply of beech-nuts. A white Swallow with black eyes, taken in August, is figured. There is also a long paper by Baron Snouckaert on the birds of Harar in south-eastern Abyssinia. This is based on a collection of 277 skins, representing 131 species, collected by Mr. Gunnar Kristensen in the neighbourhood of that place. Though no new species are described, there are many interesting records, and we observe that Baron Snouckaert is most up-to-date in his nomenclature, and that the bulk of the forms noticed bear three names.

"A. C." writes on the birds of Baarn and its neighbourhood; this is a topographical and ecological study, and is illustrated with a map of the district, which is not far from Hilversum, near Amsterdam.

Mr. Eijkman writes on the use of an electrical release for the shutter of a bird-camera, and Mr. Hans contributes an excellent photograph of *Anthus campestris* with nest and young birds.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- MULLENS, W. H. & SWANN, H. K. A Bibliography of British Ornithology. (Part V. London, 1917.)
- WITHERBY, H. F. On some Results of ringing Song-Thrushes, Blackbirds, Lapwings, and Woodcock. ('British Birds,' Vol. x. No. 9. London, 1917.)
- The Auk. (Vol. xxxiv. No. 1. Cambridge, Mass., 1917.)
- Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. viii. Nos. 1-5. London, 1917.)
- Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. viii. No. 1. Ashbourne, 1917.)
- British Birds. (Vol. x. Nos. 9, 10. London, 1917.)
- The Condor. (Vol. xix. No. 1. Hollywood, Cal., 1916.)
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XVI.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

Colours of the Eggs and the Nests of Birds.

SIR,—I write to correct a wrong impression of my view on "Coincidence" and mimicry which may have been left as the result of an omission (already referred to) from my April paper, and of the fact that the full explanation of the egg-plate in the succeeding article (October) reached you when the latter was already in pagged proof.

The view suggested in these two places was, briefly, that variation in mouths and eggs (and, I believe, elsewhere) is, to an immense extent, not lateral, so to speak, but backward and forward along the line of already-accomplished evolution—a matter, probably, of the suppression or restoration in ontogeny of particular colour-changes corresponding to particular ancestral stages, intermediate as well as terminal.